

From: Paul Staudenmeier
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:54pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

692 Raven Road
Wayne, PA 19087-2329

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in full support of the recent settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft in the antitrust case. Firstly, I do not agree with a lawsuit being brought against Microsoft in the first place. Microsoft is not a monopoly, as they have never tried to deliver poor quality goods at inflated prices. They have at times employed tough marketing tactics, but that is by no means a crime in our capitalist society. In fact, I would say it is often the only way to be successful, let alone survive, in our free enterprise system.

Microsoft spent huge amounts of time and money to develop excellent products and services. But rather than being allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labor, Microsoft is now forced in one term of the settlement to disclose interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products. This seems to violate their

intellectual property rights.

I hope the settlement goes through anyway because I think our IT sector and economy cannot afford further litigation. We need our strongest assets innovating and trying to grow. I know many others echo my opinion that I work and live with. I hope your office takes a firm stance against those who want to drag the suit on still longer, and instead strongly supports the implementation of the settlement.

Sincerely,

Paul Staudenmeier

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

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